



APAICS

Asian Pacific American Institute for
Congressional Studies

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Acting Chairman Michael Copps
Commissioners Jonathan Adelstein

Commissioner Robert McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 09-51

Dear FCC Acting Chairman and Commissioners:

The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) is dedicated to increasing participation of individuals of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage at all levels of the political process, from community service to elected office. Founded in 1994, APAICS was created to promote, support and conduct non-partisan education and informational activities, research and programs designed to effectively enhance and increase the participation of the Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) community in the democratic process. It is one of our organization's primary goals to ensure that our membership has equal access to every resource possible for civic engagement.

As the FCC formulates a national broadband strategy as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we ask you to consider policies that will maintain private sector investment in next-generation networks. It is only with continued investment that broadband can be affordable and available to all consumers. Broadband has become a life-changing technology and all Americans deserve to have access to it.

With broadband connections, Americans can start businesses, take advantage of community resources, and take classes online. Nearly four in five Internet users have visited government website for information and assistance, according to a study by the University of Illinois and the Pew Research Center. Meanwhile, the National Council for Online Learning reports that online learning is growing at a rate of 30% annually.

Broadband is also beneficial to communities as a whole. A recent study by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation reveals that from 1998 to 2002, employment in communities with broadband grew 1% more than in communities without it. With today's stark unemployment figures, technologies that can create jobs are welcome and needed. Job growth revitalizes communities and local economies. Furthermore, private sector investment in broadband creates jobs. An Empiris study attributes nearly half of all new American jobs in 2008 to the broadband/IT sectors. As these businesses continue to invest in new technology, they rely on American workers to build out our communications infrastructure.

With these figures in mind, it is clear that broadband connections empower individuals and strengthen communities. APAICS urges the FCC to create a framework that will result in 100% broadband deployment and adoption through continued private sector investment and appropriate government action to ensure that consumers continue to thrive in the broadband marketplace.

Sincerely,

Ruby G. Moy
Interim Executive Director